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# Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Program

[Section 1009.73, Florida Statutes](#)

[State Board of Education Rule 6A-20.029](#)

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## Program Description

The Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship (MMB) provides financial assistance to undergraduate students who meet scholastic requirements, demonstrate financial need, and attend Bethune-Cookman University, Edward Waters College, Florida A&M University, or Florida Memorial University. Each participating institution determines application procedures, deadlines and student eligibility.

## Applying for an Award

- Demonstrate financial need as specified by the participating institution.
- Meet the application procedures and deadlines established by the participating institution. Applications may be obtained at the financial aid offices of eligible participating postsecondary institutions.

## Requirements to Receive Funding

The student will:

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen. A student's residency and citizenship status are determined by the postsecondary institution. Questions regarding such status should be directed to the financial aid office or admissions office of the institution the student plans to attend.
- Not owe a repayment or be in default under any state or federal grant, loan or scholarship program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Enroll at Bethune-Cookman University, Edward Waters College, Florida A&M University or Florida Memorial University as a degree-seeking, undergraduate student for a minimum of 12 credit hours per term or the equivalent. Applications must be obtained from financial aid offices at Bethune-Cookman University, Edward Waters College, Florida A&M University or Florida Memorial University.
- Have earned a minimum, unweighted, cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent, toward a high school diploma.

## Student Award Renewal

- A renewal applicant must have earned a minimum institutional cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and earned the equivalent of 12 credit hours for each term an award was received during the academic year.
- Eligibility for renewal is determined at the end of the second semester or third quarter of each academic year. Credit hours earned during the previous summer can be counted toward the total number of credit hours required.
- A student should consult the postsecondary institution for renewal requirements established by the institution.

## Failure to Meet the Minimum Renewal GPA

- If a student does not meet the minimum institutional cumulative GPA, a probationary award may be granted for two semesters or three quarters.
- To be eligible for renewal the following year after probation, the student must have earned the required credits and institutional cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

## Failure to Meet the Minimum Renewal Credit/Clock Hours

- A student who does not meet the annual minimum of 12 hours per semester (or equivalent) requirement for renewal (for one or both semesters), may not receive funding the following academic year.
- To be eligible for funding in a subsequent year, the student must apply for restoration and meet the general eligibility requirements for restoration and have earned an institutional cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

## Student Award Restoration

- The student may be eligible for restoration if an institutional cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is earned at the end of the second semester or third quarter of the academic year for which he/she was ineligible.
- The student may apply for restoration with the postsecondary institution after two semesters or three quarters at the end of the spring term.

## Student Award Reinstatement

A student who met the requirements for a renewal award, but did not receive an award during a full year of eligibility and wishes to reestablish use of the grant, may apply for reinstatement with the postsecondary institution in a subsequent year provided the student has earned an institutional cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale as of the end of the second semester or third quarter of the academic year preceding the year the award is sought.

## Award Procedures

- The postsecondary institution shall rank all eligible applicants on the basis of financial need.
- If additional ranking is needed, the institution shall further rank applicants on the basis of highest cumulative GPA.
- The institution shall notify each student in writing of the status of the student's application.
- The annual award is set per Florida Statute 1009.73(6).
- The institution may prorate its scholarship allocation equally among all eligible initial, renewal and reinstatement students.

## Award Disbursement

The postsecondary institution will disburse awards to eligible students each term. Awards are not currently available for the summer term.

## Terms of Eligibility

- A student is eligible to receive an award for a maximum of 8 semesters (12 quarters) over a period of 6 consecutive years, until the student receives a baccalaureate degree, whichever occurs first.
- Undergraduate students participating in college-preparatory instruction, students requiring additional time to complete the college-level communication and computation skills testing programs (CLAST), or students enrolled in a 5-year undergraduate program are eligible to receive financial aid for a maximum of 10 semesters or 15 quarters.
- Unused hours may not be used for further course funding after a student earns a baccalaureate degree.

## Institutional Appeal Process

An applicant who believes financial aid has been wrongly denied has certain rights to appeal. If aid is denied for failure to meet state academic progress requirements, an applicant may appeal the denial to the institution by providing proof of illness or other emergency beyond the applicant's control. An institutional academic progress appeal is to be filed within 30 days of the denial letter or by the date established by the institution's financial aid office, whichever is later.

## Updating Information

An applicant must notify OSFA of any change in name, address or institution attended.

A student may update information by contacting Customer Service at 888-827-2004 or logging into his or her online OSFA account:

<https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome>

Transferring from one institution to another could affect an applicant's award.

## Use of an Applicant's Social Security Number/Non-discrimination Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 requires state agencies to inform applicants of the reasons for requesting their Social Security Numbers (SSN). The FDOE requests an SSN on all applications for student financial assistance in order to correctly identify applicants, match each applicant's financial aid record with the student record at the postsecondary institution the applicant attends, and help coordinate state student aid programs with federal student aid programs.

An applicant will not be denied financial assistance for failure to disclose the SSN. Without an SSN, correct identification of an applicant's record cannot be assured and may result in an error in the award amount or a delay in the award disbursement.

Pursuant to section 1000.05, Florida Statutes, state student financial assistance is provided to eligible applicants without discriminating on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, or marital status. Minority status will be considered when required by law as a condition of eligibility or selection.

## Contact Information

For further information, contact the financial aid office at eligible participating postsecondary institutions or the Florida Department of Education at:

**Address:**

Florida Department of Education  
Office of Student Financial Assistance  
State Scholarship and Grant Programs  
Suite 1314  
325 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

**Phone:**

888-827-2004

**Email:**

[OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)